### CRITIQUING A POLICY BRIEF (WP5E)

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<td>Writing for Policy Audiences (WP)</td>
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**Purpose**
This activity contributes to the module learning objectives by asking participants to evaluate an example of policy writing, based on the principles of good policy writing.

**Time Required**
- 30-45 mins.

**Activity Description**
Large group discussion of a sample policy brief following the presentation Writing a Policy Brief (WP4L). Everyone is asked to read at least one sample policy brief for homework; as the Facilitator, you will need to select and assign the policy brief in advance. Many policy briefs are available on PRB’s website, or you can choose a brief that is relevant to the country or focus area for your participant group. Using the Policy Brief Checklist, and based on the principles put forth in the writing presentation(s), lead a group discussion about whether or not the sample brief meets the criteria included in the presentation and checklist. Make sure you have read through the brief and recognize its strengths and weaknesses beforehand.

Remind participants that it is often easier to critique an example than to write a good brief themselves. Through the discussion, participants have an opportunity to ask many questions about writing for policy audiences. Participants are often looking for hard and fast rules about policy writing, but the reality is that policy writing is subjective and varies. The answer is often “it depends”—usually on the audience and the communication objective.

**Key Learning Concept(s)**
- Elements of policy writing.
- Different structure and writing style for a policy brief (as compared to academic writing).
Materials Needed

- Policy Brief Checklist

Associated Presentation

- Principles of Policy Writing (WP1L)
- Writing A Policy Brief (WP4L)

Required Preparation

- Sample Policy Brief